

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

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Contributions on subjects of interest to Sierra Club members are welcome, and should be sent to the Editorial Board.

Francis P. Farquhar, *Editor*; Harriet T. Parsons, *Associate Editor*; Barbara Bedayn, David R. Brower, Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte E. Mauk, Marion R. Parsons, Blanche Stallings.

Directors Hold Organization Meeting

The annual organization meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club was held at the Club headquarters Saturday, May 5, 1945. All the directors were present.

Mr. McDuffie called the meeting to order. The report of the Judges of Election was read, announcing that on April 14, 1945, the following were elected directors of the Sierra Club for the ensuing year: Ansel Adams, Phil S. Bernays, William E. Colby, Harold E. Crowe, Leland Curtis, Francis P. Farquhar, Weldon F. Heald, Joel H. Hildebrand, Walter L. Huber, E. Stanley Jones, Oliver Kehrlein, Charlotte E. Mauk, Duncan McDuffie, Harriet T. Parsons, Walter A. Starr. The former officers were all re-elected for another year, namely: Duncan McDuffie, president; E. Stanley Jones, vice-president; William E. Colby, secretary; Walter L. Huber, treasurer; Francis P. Farquhar, the fifth member of the Executive Committee.

Professor Joseph N. LeConte attended the meeting by invitation and was unanimously re-elected Honorary President. He expressed his appreciation, and also his pleasure at being able to meet with the directors once again,

which he is seldom able to do since his home is in Carmel.

Letters were read from several of the Honorary Vice-Presidents regretting that they were unable to attend the meeting. The following were re-elected Honorary Vice-Presidents: Horace M. Albright, Newton B. Drury, Willis Linn Jepson, François E. Matthes, J. Horace McFarland, John C. Merriam, Marion R. Parsons, Robert G. Sproul, Donald B. Tresidder, Ray Lyman Wilbur, William H. Wright. Frederick Law Olmsted was unanimously elected an additional Honorary Vice-President because of his splendid work in the interests of our parks.

Miss Parsons called attention to the fact, which she had just noted, that it was forty-five years to the day since Mr. Colby first became a director and secretary of the Club.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the December 1944 *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

The treasurer's report for the year 1944, as printed in the February 1945 *Sierra Club Bulletin*, was accepted.

Mr. Huber read a financial statement and report of operations of the Clair Tappaan Lodge received by him from Richard N. Burnley, chairman of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee. A resolution of appreciation for Mr. Burnley's splendid management of the Clair Tappaan Lodge was adopted.

Chapter Chairmen Report on Activities

James T. Vickrey, Jeanette Craig, Cyrus C. Washburn, chairmen of the Southern California, Mother Lode, and San Francisco Bay chapters, were present and gave oral and written reports on chapter interests and activities. Their reports were accepted. Archie J. Twogood, chairman of the Riverside Chapter, had written that he would be unable to come to the meeting, and expressed appreciation for the Club's action taken opposing the proposed tramway on Mount San Jacinto. A written report from Frieda Marti, secretary of the Riverside Chapter, was read and accepted. The various chapter reports

indicated great interest in conservation matters, especially in opposing the proposed "Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority," and in looking to the preservation of the South Calaveras Grove of Big Trees. The Mother Lode Chapter is making a contribution toward the expenses of a survey of the South Grove area to be made by Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted.

A motion was passed that the contribution of the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Southern California Chapter to the cost of the general liability policy be \$10 instead of \$25 as heretofore.

Reports from Committees

Herbert L. Breed, Chairman of the Outing Committee, and Arthur H. Blake, Chairman of the High Sierra Trails and Lodge committees, also attended the meeting. Richard N. Burnley, Chairman of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, attended part of the meeting later in the day.

Mr. Blake presented written and oral reports in regard to both of his committees. In connection with his report on the lodges he stated that, during the months of July and August, Mr. and Mrs. F. Marshall Jencks will be the custodians again at Parsons Memorial Lodge on the Club's Soda Springs property at Tuolumne Meadows, and that Mrs. Enid Michael will again be in charge of LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley.

There was some discussion of repairs and improvements needed at LeConte Memorial Lodge. The Secretary was requested to take up with the Director of the National Park Service the matter of repairs to the roof.

National Park Problems Discussed

The following attended the meeting for an hour and joined in a general discussion of national park matters: Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director of the National Park Service; Major O. A. Tomlinson, Regional Director; Mr. Herbert Maier, Mr. Oliver G. Taylor, also of the National Park Service, and Mr. Aubrey

Drury, Secretary of the Save-the-Redwoods League.

Duncan McDuffie was confirmed and continued as the representative of the Sierra Club on the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association.

The sum of one thousand dollars was appropriated as a contribution to the National Tribute Grove fund in honor of the many members of the Sierra Club who are serving or who have served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II. A magnificent primeval forest of Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in Del Norte County, California, has been selected on the recommendation of Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted and will be preserved as the National Tribute Grove.

Mr. Farquhar in reporting on the work of the Editorial Board mentioned some of the difficulties encountered in getting out the various issues of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. It is hoped to have a magazine number in August, with the deadline for contributions July 4. A vote of thanks was extended to the members of the Editorial Board in charge of both the magazine number and the bimonthly issues, and also to the members of the *Yodeler* staff.

Conservation Items Referred to New Committee

Report was made of the appointment by President McDuffie of a Conservation Committee with Weldon F. Heald as chairman. Major Heald is also chairman of the Conservation and Forestry Committee of the Southern California Chapter. A number of matters were referred to the Conservation Committee, viz:

A letter from Mr. Ed. Hughes, President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, regarding some experimental work which a commercial concern proposes to carry out on several mountain peaks.

A letter from Sergeant Roy M. Gorin relative to conservation problems and suggesting the desirability of bringing the main

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purposes of the Club to the attention of new members, in order to secure their help in conservation matters.

A letter from Colonel John R. White, Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, regarding a proposal to limit the size of packtrains in the Sierra and other packing problems.

A letter from Mr. Ray E. Montrose concerning the "California-Wide Trail project."

A letter from the Izaak Walton League of America regarding proposed dams on the Missouri River, and a pamphlet on the same subject from the National Wildlife Association.

A communication from Melville N. Lincoln, of the Los Angeles Museum, regarding the status of the herd of California elk north of Independence in the Owens Valley.

Miscellaneous Business

Approval was given to Senate Bill 277, providing for the establishment of a Robert Louis Stevenson State Park in Napa County and appropriating ten thousand dollars for the purchase of the site. The secretary was requested to write Senator Frank L. Gordon to so advise him.

The Secretary was requested to write to the Secretary of the Interior, inviting attention to the fact that Mr. François E. Matthes' book "Geological History of the Yosemite Valley" is out of print, and urging that it be made available again as soon as conditions will permit its being reprinted.

A motion was passed that the Club acquire, if possible, the Conterno property in the

Kern River Canyon, and the sum of one thousand dollars and costs was authorized to be expended for the purpose.

A motion was passed that Mrs. Elizabeth M. Cook be made a life member of the Club in recognition of her services to the Club over a long period of years, the requisite amount for life membership dues to be transferred from the current fund to the permanent fund. Mrs. Cook has done much to assist in the work of the Southern California Chapter and has been keeping in touch through correspondence with many of the Club's members who are overseas and has welcomed many on their return.

The sum of \$25 was appropriated to be used toward the protection of Zumwalt Meadow in Kings River Canyon during the coming summer.

A motion was passed that the Secretary send greetings to the former directors of the Club now in the armed forces of the United States, and wish them a speedy return.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. John Thomas Howell and Mr. Eric Walther of Golden Gate Park for the lovely azaleas and rhododendrons with which the clubroom was decorated.

Mr. Colby suggested that the Club consider the possibility of publishing in book form John Muir's "Studies in the Sierra," consisting of seven articles formerly appearing in the *Overland Monthly* in 1874 and reprinted many years ago in the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, possibly with photographic illustrations. This was referred to the Editorial Board.

WM. E. COLBY, *Secretary*.

Club Notes

On exhibit in the clubrooms during the summer are the photographs of the High Sierra taken by Herbert P. Rankin. These were previously announced for an earlier showing.

* * *

An organized Harvest Camp will not be

held this year, but members are urged to plan independently to help with the harvesting if they can. St. Helena no doubt will welcome any who can come back there; but more detailed information as to the need and the possibilities may be obtained from any Farm Labor Office.

Former Directors on Every Front

Lieutenant David R. Brower is with the 10th Mountain Division, in the 86th Regiment, which according to recent word is back in the Julian Alps in Italy, on the border of Yugoslavia. He is intelligence officer of his battalion, of which he has been writing the history, and at present is in charge of the climbing school.

Lieutenant Lewis F. Clark, USNR, is now stationed in the Bay area after two years in the South Pacific, on the island of Tutuila in Samoa.

Corporal Glen Dawson, also with the 10th Mountain Division, was recently awarded the Bronze Star for service on Mount Belvedere in Italy.

Major Richard M. Leonard, who has been in the Orient for the past twelve months, is officer in charge of Field Laboratory Enemy Equipment Intelligence Service in the India-Burma theater.

Lieutenant Norman B. Livermore, Jr., with the Amphibious Forces of the Navy in air intelligence, is on the command ship which has been guiding the air support of the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Bestor Robinson, Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, has been chief of research and development in the Office of the Chief Quartermaster in Europe, and has been stationed in Paris. He probably will be in Europe for several months more, in practical intelligence, in charge of a group of scientists who are to study German research in quartermaster equipment.

Lieutenant Commander Francis D. Tappan is the commander of a task unit of PT boats. He was recently awarded the Navy's Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Philippines. A sudden attack by enemy planes resulted in the death of several members of the crew and injury of all but one. To quote the citation, "Until all others were cared for he refused aid for himself, meanwhile working strenuously to get the engines running and guns operating. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest tradition of the Navy of the United States." Latest news is that he is quite all right and has been back on the job again for some time.

Remarkable Remarks

(Or Why the Conservationist Grows Gray)

"Roads are needed . . . New roads would make more jobs in the mountains for inns, filling stations and garages . . . California is shutting out millions of tourists' dollars by neglecting to develop this region (the High Sierra). With Europe closed to travel, now is the time to act to catch this traffic."

"Any time you are told that national parks and monuments are not created for the benefit of a few to commercialize, somebody has told you a lie."

"I am strongly in favor of reasonable areas for national parks created for the purpose for which they were intended. However there is

no reason for including all the mountains and a good portion of the desert in national parks and thereby creating a monopoly for the large concession interests . . ."

These are a few excerpts taken from letters and editorials from various sources. They are expressions of some people's beliefs. The remarks and the context from which they were taken are interesting and decidedly educational for those of us who think differently. We may be surprised by the examples. If so, we may well ask ourselves — how well equipped are we to cope with such remarks? How can you answer that question?

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Is This Land-Grabbing?

[From an editorial in *National Parks Magazine* for April-June]

How many people realize that the area of the United States that is administered by the National Park Service is equal to only 85/100ths of one per cent of the country's total area? A large part of that fraction is comprised of numerous small bits of land on which are located such objects as the Florida forts, the Statue of Liberty, Appomattox Court House, Hopewell Village, Vanderbilt Mansion and others, as well as several national cemeteries, national memorials, parkways and miscellaneous areas. That leaves a considerably smaller per cent that is given over to preservation of primeval wilderness. To those who appreciate undisturbed nature, this revelation may come as a disappointment.

It is in connection with certain of the larger primeval areas that the National Park Service has been accused, during recent months, of being a "land-grabbing agency." Ours is a rich nation and our country vast. Can we not well afford, therefore, to set aside for posterity such a comparatively small portion of our land? Is it not worth while to preserve intact a few outstanding examples

of the primeval wilderness that once covered this continent?

In the Service's annual report, Director Drury makes an answer to this accusation. He says that lately many areas have been removed from Park Service jurisdiction under congressional authority. This has been done through request of the Department of the Interior upon the advice of the Park Service. Also, out of 770 areas proposed over a period of seven years, for national park, national monument or related uses, only thirty-eight were favorably recommended by the Service. Furthermore, up to June 30, 1944, twenty-eight of the original forty-six recreational demonstration areas, assigned for development by the Service, had been turned back, or were designated to be turned back, for administration by the states in which they are located. Mr. Drury says, too, that it is hoped that the states in which thirteen others are located will eventually be in a position to accept ownership and administration of these areas.

We ask, is this land-grabbing?

Parsons Memorial Lodge to Open in June

Our lodge at Tuolumne Meadows will again be in charge of Marshall and Violet Jencks, from the latter part of June until after Labor Day. If the Yosemite Park and Curry Company operates as it did last year, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge will remain closed, but the store, post office, and gas station will open about July fourth. The truck from Yosemite Valley will make three trips per week, carrying per trip two persons only. Since mail has

the priority, camping equipment and personal effects should be sent by parcel post, preferably in advance. Reservations should be secured for the truck and inquiries should be made about the handling of baggage.

Campers must bring their own equipment. Club and Park regulations concerning dogs must be observed. Presentation of membership cards is an obligation expected of all members.

On the Conservation Front

Bad News

—The Mount San Jacinto Bill, which has been so strongly opposed by the Sierra Club and its members, passed the State Assembly.

—State land in the Adirondacks is threatened by the passing in New York State Senate resolutions calling for amendments to the "forever wild" provision of the constitution. This may eventually result in the land being opened up and developed for recreational purposes and mining; an act which will leave no wild land in New York State.

—Our old problem H.R. 2109, the Barrett Bill, is again in evidence. This you remember is for the purpose of abolishing the Jackson Hole National Monument.

—According to a recent report of the forestry study committee, which was authorized by the 1943 Legislature for a report to the 1945 Legislature, California is allowing her timber supply to be depleted without seeing that proper reforestation precautions are taken. The committee found that stands of old growth timber are being liquidated rapidly, and the small supply of second growth large enough for lumber is being used to meet war demands. The committee recommended that the state acquire the idle cut-over lands for reforesting, as such long-run conservation can be done profitably by the state, while the present taxing system is unfavorable to the continued private holding of timber producing lands. The report stated also that insect and fire losses have contributed to forest depletion, inadequate pest control having caused six times as much damage as forest fires.

National Trail System Proposed

An article on conservation in the *Appalachian Trailway News* for May 1945, sums up the conclusions that some Eastern conservation and outing clubs have come to in regard to the present and postwar dangers to

Good News

—The proposal for a postwar flood control and power production project for the Potomac River and its tributaries by the War Department's Board of Engineers, which would dam the river and ruin the natural beauty of this watershed, has been abandoned. It was vigorously opposed by many conservation and other organizations, and it is fairly safe to assume the project has been checked.

—Deeds to the state lands within the boundaries of the wildlife refuge in the Everglades in Florida have been received by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The area is now being established under the authority of the recent congressional act permitting its management as a wildlife refuge, pending further study of the national park possibilities.

—Three hundred acres within the Mount Rainier National Park have just been sold by the former owner, the Northern Pacific Railroad, to the National Park Service. This area was in danger of being bought by private lumber interests for the timber, but in the interest of conservation and to keep intact the beauty of the Park, the railroad company turned it over to the Park for a much smaller sum than they would have received from the lumber company.

—The California Legislature passed the bill providing for establishment of a Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, consisting of some 400 acres on Mount St. Helena. This proposed park was mentioned in the "Good News" column of the February *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

the existing wildernesses and parks. It should be of interest to our members to read it in its entirety, but brief excerpts may give an idea of what our Eastern contemporaries feel they are up against.

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The Appalachian Trail has its own problems, and the outlook, according to this article, seems to be not very reassuring. Among other difficulties there is felt to be a lack of unity of purpose among outing club members; skiers look at wilderness areas from a different point of view from hikers. This seems to be one of the factors which endangers the wilderness of the Whiteface area in the Adirondacks, as a wholehearted, unified battleline is necessary in any conservation fight.

It may well be totally useless to plan for conservation problems on a basis of pre-war conditions. If however, pre-war conditions return, we must be prepared for an overwhelming flood of projects in the way of relief and war-shock absorption which will vitally affect the few remaining wilderness areas we have in the East. We of the Appalachian Trail Conference, do not feel competent to discuss conservation problems other than in our own limited Eastern terrain. However in this area it is now not a case of anticipated post-war invasion. The spearhead has already broken through. The initial wedge is in the form of the little publicized Highway Act (Chap. 626, 78th Congress) hurriedly passed in Congress and approved December 20, 1944. [This provides for large sums for a super-highway system, for roads and trails in national forests, and for parkways and roads in national parks.—Ed.] . . . To think that none of these roads mean scenic roads in the remaining Eastern wilderness areas

is sheer delusion . . . New Englanders may yet find scenic highways along the Presidentials and the Green Mountains of Vermont; those ghosts will have acquired much vitality since supposedly laid ten years ago.

The article takes up the complications and problems of the Appalachian Trail System, which we will not attempt to cover here. Their problems differ somewhat from ours; there is a rather grim desperation apparent in the fight to maintain the small amount of wilderness left there. We most certainly would back those concerned in any reasonable project they felt would save these all too few pieces of wilderness. Their present hope is in the bill (H.R. 2142) introduced by Representative Daniel K. Hoch of Pennsylvania, a member of the Board of the Appalachian Trail Conference, and president of the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club. This bill proposes a National Trail System of Foot Trails which would include the Appalachian Trail. Such legislation would preserve the wilderness aspect of the Trail route, maintain it, and eliminate the weak links in the chain. It would establish foot trails as a matter of public interest in the same manner as highways but to a lesser degree.

As a constructive contribution to conservation projects, the Appalachian Trail Conference bespeaks for this measure the support of all of its members and organizations which have kindred programs and objects.

Looking Backward

Our attention has been called to the following historical notes, which seem appropriate to compare with certain present day problems.

* * *

In 1927 Mount Hood was threatened by the same sort of commercial development which is endangering Mount San Jacinto in our southern mountains. Because of the decision then made by Colonel William B.

Greeley, Chief of the Forest Service, the summit still remains inviolate.

A permit was refused a commercial company that asked permission to construct an incline cableway to the summit of the mountain, with rest rooms and lunch rooms at the top and midway stations. Colonel Greeley's own words express what seem to us the most significant reasons for his decision.

"I appreciate the reasons which have

prompted many people and organizations in Oregon to endorse this project. There are substantial arguments in its favor as a recreational development that would serve many people and increase the tourist business.

"On the other hand, I must confess a strong personal hesitation to approve the permit requested . . . Peaks like Hood, Shasta, and Whitney, preserved and revered as nature made them, represent one of our greatest assets. And I cannot but believe that the esthetic, or sentimental, value of such outstanding natural features would be impaired through subjecting them to this type of development. You cannot measure this loss in any specific terms. Nevertheless some loss there would be; and in my judgment the material gains in tourist traffic, even the opportunity afforded more people to visit such points, are not sufficient to compensate for it.

"It may be desirable to construct cableways to some of our western peaks where commanding views are afforded. I would not necessarily preclude it in all instances. But I believe that the points selected for such projects should not be those having an outstanding distinction and hold upon public sentiment like Mount Hood. Another reason which underlies my conviction in this matter is the general need of preserving a substantial portion of the more beautiful and scenic areas in the national forests in as nearly a natural condition as practicable . . . I think we must consciously set up in our plans for the use of the national forests the very important social service rendered by retaining substantial areas available exclusively for unmotorized and nonmechanical forms of recreation. This is necessary in order that the people may continue to obtain from these regions the same sort of vigorous recuperation and spiritual stimulus that they have afforded in the past."

Along this same line of thought is an editorial from the *Saturday Evening Post* of

February 21, 1931, entitled "National Possessions."

From the Government Printing Office has come the report of a special committee of two landscape architects and one scientist to the Secretary of Agriculture on the features or qualities of major public importance of the Mount Hood area in the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon, and on the principles which should govern its management . . .

The peak itself is an outstanding and noble feature of the landscape . . . it expresses in an unusual degree the element of magnitude and power. Such outdoor areas have no superior as national possessions. The values which they impart are of the highest and truest.

The committee considered, among other matters, the wisdom of building a cableway to the summit of Mount Hood; and it reported that the proper development of the outdoor opportunities in the zones surrounding the peak is much more important than any decision reached about the cableway, although it felt that the values from such an intelligent development would be diminished by prior construction of the cableway. What the committee means by this statement . . . is that the "best possible development is none too good" for such a place as Mount Hood. And the best development of mountains and canyons most emphatically does not call for cableways, tramways and similar disfigurements of the landscape.

"Almost any amount of effort and skill and patience, and even of heartbreaking delays, would be worth while as the price of getting the best development in the long run, instead of letting it drift into a second or third rate sort of development, as so many areas naturally adapted to recreation do drift." Such a sentiment needs to be blazoned across the country, for it applies to many places besides Mount Hood. Those who seek to put great natural possessions to the highest uses will do well to read the Mount Hood report.

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